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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/559,612	12/02/2005	Michihiro Izumi	03500.018183	1506
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EXAMINER				
MURRAY, DANIEL C				
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/559,612

**Applicant(s)**

IZUMI, MICHIHIRO

**Examiner**

Daniel Murray

**Art Unit**

2109

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02DEC2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-10, 12-19, and 21-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-10, 12-19 and 21-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/003)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :18JAN2006, 20SEP2006, and 23MAR2007.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Priority***

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 10/599612, filed on 02DEC2005.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statements submitted on 18JAN2006, 20SEP2006, and 23MAR2007 have been considered by the Examiner and made of record in the application.

**Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19, and 21-33** are pending. **Claims 2, 11, and 20** have been canceled by Applicant.

### ***Specification***

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
4. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

**Claims 19, 21-26, 29, and 33** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. **Claims 21-26 and 33** are rejected by virtue of their dependency on **claim 19**.

**Claim 19** states: A control **program** for a communication apparatus having an IP communication means and transmitting/receiving communication data to/from a communication partner station discriminated by a telephone number, said method comprising: an IP address obtaining step of obtaining an IP address of the communication partner station through an SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) from a predetermined server based on the telephone number of the communication partner station; and a control step of transmitting/receiving on an IP network the communication data to/from the communication partner station by using the obtained IP address of the communication partner station, based on a predetermined data transmission/reception protocol, wherein said control step is adapted to transmit a transmission request message to the communication partner station after obtaining the IP address and before transmitting the communication data.

**Claim 29** states: A control **program** of a gateway apparatus including an IP communication means, transmitting/receiving communication data to/from a first partner station by using the IP communication means, and transmitting/receiving communication data to/from a second partner station according to a facsimile procedure by using the IP communication means, said **program** consisting of: an obtaining step of obtaining a telephone number of the second partner station or an

IP address of the first partner station on the basis of an SIP; and a control step of connecting, by using the telephone number of the second partner station or the IP address of the first partner station obtained in said obtaining step, the corresponding partner station, and transmitting/receiving the communication data to/from the corresponding partner station on the basis of a facsimile protocol.

Applicant attempts to claim non-statutory subject matter (i.e. a program). Applicant fails to claim a proper computer readable medium and thus fails to fall within a statutory category and is thus, per se, considered software.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. **Claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 19, and 31-33** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Chimura et al. (US Patent # US 6,400,719 B1)** in view of **Mussman et al. (US Patent Publication # US 2004/0139209 A1)**.

a) Consider **claims 1, 10 and 19**, Chimura et al. clearly show and disclose, a communication apparatus, method, and program which has IP (internet Protocol) communication means and transmits/receives communication data to/from a communication partner station discriminated by a telephone number (figure 1, figure 7, abstract, column 2 lines 1-38), comprising: IP address obtaining means for obtaining an IP address of the communication partner station from a predetermined server based on the telephone number of the communication partner station (figure 1, figure 7, abstract, column 2 lines 1-38, column 3 lines 66-67, column 4 lines 1-34); and control means for transmitting/ receiving on an IP network the communication data to/from the communication partner station by using the obtained IP address of the communication partner station, based on a predetermined data transmission/reception protocol (figure 1, figure 7, abstract, column 2 lines 1-38, column 3 lines 66-67, column 4 lines 1-34, column 5 lines 45-67, column 6 lines 1-3), wherein said control means transmits a transmission request message to the communication partner station after obtaining the IP address and before transmitting the communication data (figure 6, figure 10, abstract, column 2 lines 1-38). However, chimera et al. does not specifically disclose obtaining an IP address of the communication partner station through an SIP (Session Initiation Protocol).

Mussman et al. show and disclose an apparatus which includes a device configured to support a first protocol for initiation, maintenance, and termination of a communication session between call endpoints, and to support a second protocol for resolving endpoint addresses for the

communication session wherein obtaining an IP address of the communication partner station is accomplished by using SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) (abstract, paragraph [0003], [0013], [0014]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Mussman et al. into the system of Chimura et al. for the purpose of using SIP for the initiation, maintenance, and termination of a communication session.

b) Consider **claims 6 and 15**, and **as applied to claims 1 and 10 above**, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. clearly show and disclose, a communication apparatus and method according to claims 1 and 10, wherein it is controlled by said control means to obtain the IP address of the communication partner station from the predetermined server based on the telephone number of the communication partner station by using a predetermined UDP (User Datagram Protocol), and further transmit/receive the communication data to/from the communication partner station by using the obtained IP address of the communication partner station on the basis of a predetermined TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) (abstract, column 5 lines 44-67, column 6 lines 1-3).

c) Consider **claims 31, 32, and 33**, and **as applied to claims 1, 10, and 19 above**, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. clearly show and disclose, a communication apparatus, method, and program according to claims 1, 10, and 19, wherein said control means transmits a transmission permission message in response to the transmission request message received from the communication partner station, after obtaining the IP address and before receiving the communication data (figure 6, figure 10, abstract, column 2 lines 1-38).



9. **Claims 3, 7, 9, 12, 16, 18, 21, 24-25, and 27-30** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Chimura et al. (US Patent # US 6,400,719 B1)** in view of **Mussman et al. (US Patent Publication # US 2004/0139209 A1)** and in further view of **Strauss et al. (US Patent # 5,940,598)**.

a) Consider **claims 3, 12, and 21**, and as **applied to claims 1, 10, and 19 above**, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. clearly show and disclose, a communication apparatus, method, and program according to claims 1, 10, and 19, further comprising: signal communication means for performing communication of a signal (figure 1, figure 5, figure 7, abstract, column 2 lines 1-38, column 3 lines 66-67, column 4 lines 1-34); and VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) communication means for transmitting/receiving a frame obtained by digitally encoding the signal output from said signal communication means and adding the IP address (figure 1, figure 5, figure 7, abstract, column 2 lines 1-38, column 3 lines 66-67, column 4 lines 1-34). However, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. does not specifically disclose that the signal is a facsimile signal.

Strauss et al. show and disclose a universal or multipurpose network server having enhanced processing functions which are performed in association with a telecommunications network to provide multi-mode communications via a combination of the public switched telephone network (PSTN) and a public packet data network, such as the Internet wherein a facsimile signal communication means is used for performing communication of a facsimile signal (figure 4, abstract, column 1 lines 57-61, column 7 lines 23-29 lines 40-53, column 8 lines 10-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Strauss et al. into the system of Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. for the purpose of transmitting a facsimile signal.

b) Consider **claims 7, 16, and 25**, and **as applied to claims 3, 12, and 21** above, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. and as further modified by Strauss et al. clearly show and disclose, a communication apparatus, method, and program according to claims 3, 12, and 21, further comprising data communication means for performing the data communication by using a data transmission/reception protocol which is not a VoIP procedure signal used by said VoIP communication means and a facsimile procedure signal used by said facsimile signal communication means, wherein said control means performs image communication by selectively using said VoIP communication means and said data communication means (Strauss et al. figure 4, abstract, column 1 lines 57-61, column 7 lines 23-29 lines 40-53, column 8 lines 10-20 lines 38-67, column 9 lines 1-9).

c) Consider **claim 9**, Chimura et al. clearly show and disclose, a communication system which includes a communication apparatus having IP (Internet Protocol) communication means and transmitting/receiving communication data to/from a communication partner station discriminated by a telephone number (figure 1, figure 7, abstract, column 2 lines 1-38), comprising: IP address obtaining means for obtaining an IP address of the communication partner station from a predetermined server based on the telephone number of the communication partner station (figure 1, figure 7, abstract, column 2 lines 1-38, column 3 lines 66-67, column 4 lines 1-34); and control means for transmitting/receiving on an IP network the communication data to/from the communication partner station by using the obtained IP address of the communication partner station, based on a predetermined data transmission/reception protocol (figure 1, figure 7, abstract, column 2 lines 1-38, column 3 lines 66-67, column 4 lines 1-34, column 5 lines 45-67, column 6 lines 1-3) and said control means transmits a transmission request message to the communication

partner station after obtaining the IP address and before transmitting the communication data (figure 6, figure 10, abstract, column 2 lines 1-38).

However, Chimura et al. does not specifically disclose obtaining an IP address of the communication partner station through an SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) or that the communication partner station is a facsimile gateway, and the facsimile gateway transfers image data received from said communication apparatus according to a non-facsimile procedure to a destination communication apparatus according to a facsimile procedure.

Mussman et al. show and disclose an apparatus which includes a device configured to support a first protocol for initiation, maintenance, and termination of a communication session between call endpoints, and to support a second protocol for resolving endpoint addresses for the communication session wherein obtaining an IP address of the communication partner station is accomplished by using SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) (abstract, paragraph [0003], [0013], [0014]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Mussman et al. into the system of Chimura et al. for the purpose of using SIP for the initiation, maintenance, and termination of a communication session. However, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. do not specifically disclose the communication partner station is a facsimile gateway, and the facsimile gateway transfers image data received from said communication apparatus according to a non-facsimile procedure to a destination communication apparatus according to a facsimile procedure.

Strauss et al. show and disclose a universal or multipurpose network server having enhanced processing functions which are performed in association with a telecommunications network to provide multi-mode communications via a combination of the public switched telephone network (PSTN) and a public packet data network, such as the Internet wherein the communication partner

station is a facsimile gateway, and the facsimile gateway transfers image data received from said communication apparatus according to a non-facsimile procedure to a destination communication apparatus according to a facsimile procedure (figure 4, abstract, column 1 lines 57-61, column 7 lines 23-29 lines 40-53, column 8 lines 10-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Strauss et al. into the system of Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. for the purpose of transmitting image data according to a facsimile procedure.

d) Consider **claim 18**, and **as applied to claim 10 above**, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. clearly show and disclose, a control method according to Claim 10. However, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. does not specifically disclose the communication partner station is a facsimile gateway, and the facsimile gateway transfers image data received from the communication apparatus according to a non-facsimile procedure to a destination communication apparatus according to a facsimile procedure.

Strauss et al. show and disclose a universal or multipurpose network server having enhanced processing functions which are performed in association with a telecommunications network to provide multi-mode communications via a combination of the public switched telephone network (PSTN) and a public packet data network, such as the Internet wherein the communication partner station is a facsimile gateway, and the facsimile gateway transfers image data received from said communication apparatus according to a non-facsimile procedure to a destination communication apparatus according to a facsimile procedure (figure 4, abstract, column 1 lines 57-61, column 7 lines 23-29 lines 40-53, column 8 lines 10-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Strauss et al. into the system of Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. for the purpose of transmitting image data according to a facsimile procedure.

e) Consider **claim 24**, and **as applied to claim 21 above**, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. and as further modified by Strauss et al. clearly show and disclose, a control program according to claim 21, wherein it is controlled in said control step to obtain the IP address of the communication partner station from the predetermined server based on the telephone number of the communication partner station by using a predetermined UDP, and further transmit/receive the communication data to/from the communication partner station by using the obtained IP address of the communication partner station on the basis of a predetermined TCP (abstract, column 5 lines 44-67, column 6 lines 1-3).

f) Consider **claims 27, 28, 29, and 30**, Chimura et al. clearly show and disclose, a gateway apparatus, control method, program, and communication method which includes IP communication means, transmits/receives communication data to/from a first partner station, and transmits/receives communication data to/from a second partner station (figure 1, figure 7, abstract, column 2 lines 1-38), comprising: obtaining means for obtaining a telephone number of the second partner station or an IP address of the first partner station (figure 1, figure 7, abstract, column 2 lines 1-38, column 3 lines 66-67, column 4 lines 1-34); and control means for connecting, by using the obtained telephone number of the second partner station or the obtained IP address of the first partner station, the corresponding partner station, and transmitting/receiving the communication data to/from the corresponding partner station on the basis of a protocol (figure 1, figure 7, abstract, column 2 lines 1-38, column 3 lines 66-67, column 4 lines 1-34, column 5 lines 45-67, column 6 lines

1-3). However, Chimura et al. does not specifically disclose obtaining a telephone number on the basis of an SIP or communication according to a facsimile procedures or protocol.

Mussman et al. show and disclose an apparatus which includes a device configured to support a first protocol for initiation, maintenance, and termination of a communication session between call endpoints, and to support a second protocol for resolving endpoint addresses for the communication session wherein obtaining an IP address of the communication partner station is accomplished by using SIP (Session Initiation Protocol). (abstract, paragraph [0003], [0013], [0014]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Mussman et al. into the system of Chimura et al. for the purpose of using SIP for the initiation, maintenance, and termination of a communication session. However, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. does not specifically disclose communication according to a facsimile procedures or protocol.

Strauss et al. show and disclose a universal or multipurpose network server having enhanced processing functions which are performed in association with a telecommunications network to provide multi-mode communications via a combination of the public switched telephone network (PSTN) and a public packet data network, such as the Internet wherein communication is done according to a facsimile procedures or protocol (figure 4, abstract, column 1 lines 57-61, column 7 lines 23-29 lines 40-53, column 8 lines 10-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Strauss et al. into the system of Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. for the purpose of communication according to facsimile procedures or protocol.

10. **Claims 4-5, 13-14, and 22-23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Chimura et al. (US Patent # US 6,400,719 B1)** in view of **Mussman et al. (US Patent Publication # US 2004/0139209 A1)** in further view of **Strauss et al. (US Patent # 5,940,598)** and in further view of **Nada et al. (US Patent Publication # US 2002/0095516 A1)**.

a) Consider **claims 4, 13, and 22**, and as **applied to claims 3, 12, and 21 above**, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. and Strauss et al. clearly show and disclose, a communication apparatus, method, and program according to claims 3, 12, and 21, wherein facsimile communication is performed with the communication partner station. However, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. and Strauss et al. does not specifically disclose that the facsimile communication is performed with the communication partner station through an ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) gateway for connecting bands obtained by frequency-dividing ADSL with a splitter respectively to the IP network and a line switching network, the IP network, and a facsimile gateway for receiving the digitally converted facsimile signal from the IP network and transmitting the received signal to the communication partner station through the line switching network.

Nada et al. shows and discloses an Internet telephone system and an Internet telephone apparatus using the Internet wherein a facsimile communication is performed with the communication partner station through an ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) gateway (abstract, paragraph [0003], [0004], [0005], [0006], [0007], [0012], [0013]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Nada et al. into the system of Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. and Strauss et al. for the purpose of communicating via an ADSL.

b) Consider **claim 5, 14, and 23**, and **as applied to claims 3, 12, and 21 above**, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. and Strauss et al. clearly show and disclose, a communication apparatus, method and program according to claims 3, 12, and 21, wherein when it is judged that the communication with the communication partner station through the VoIP transmission path is possible, said IP address obtaining means attempts to obtain the IP address of the communication partner station from the predetermined server, and said control means transmits/receives on the IP network the communication data to/from the communication partner station by using the obtained IP address of the communication partner station, based on the predetermined data transmission/reception protocol (abstract, column 2 lines 1-38, column 3 lines 66-67, column 4 lines 1-34). However, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. and Strauss et al. does not specifically disclose said IP address obtaining means judges by analyzing the telephone number of the communication partner whether or not the communication with the communication partner station through a VoIP transmission path is possible

Nada et al. shows and discloses an Internet telephone system and an Internet telephone apparatus using the Internet wherein an IP address obtaining means judges by analyzing the telephone number of the communication partner whether or not the communication with the communication partner station through a VoIP transmission path is possible (abstract, paragraph [0028], [0052], [0058], [0064]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Nada et al. into the system of Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. and Strauss et al. for the purpose of determining whether or not the communication through a VoIP transmission path is possible.



11. **Claims 8, 17, and 26** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Chimura et al. (US Patent # US 6,400,719 B1)** in view of **Mussman et al. (US Patent Publication # US 2004/0139209 A1)** in further view of **Strauss et al. (US Patent # 5,940,598)** and in further view of **Kobayashi (US Patent # US 7,076,554 B1)**.

a) Consider **claims 8, 17, and 26** and as applied to **claims 3, 12, and 21** above, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. and Strauss et al. clearly show and disclose, a communication apparatus, method, and program according to claims 3, 12, and 21. However, Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. and Strauss et al. does not specifically disclose said VoIP communication means is a VoIP codec for converting an analog voice signal into a digital signal.

Kobayashi shows and discloses The present invention relates to an internet communication system or an internet service telephone communication method, and more particularly to a telephone system through an internet telephone by a provider on a calling side wherein VoIP communication means is a VoIP codec for converting an analog voice signal into a digital signal (figure 1, abstract, column 1 lines 45-48, column 2 lines 36-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Kobayashi into the system of Chimura et al. as modified by Mussman et al. and Strauss et al. for the purpose of voice communication on the internet.

### ***Conclusion***

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

➤ US 6,801,952 B1

➤ US 6,956,843 B1

Art Unit: 2154

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| ➤ US 7,092,380 B1    | ➤ 5,745,702       |
| ➤ US 6,810,036 B1    | ➤ US 6,807,166 B1 |
| ➤ US 6,487,407 B2    | ➤ US 6,243,373 B1 |
| ➤ US 2004/0117498 A1 | ➤ US 7,088,994 B2 |
| ➤ US 6,779,020 B1    | ➤ 6,075,783       |
| ➤ US 7,035,674 B1    | ➤ US 6,205,139 B1 |
| ➤ US 6,928,082 B2    | ➤ US 6,539,015 B2 |
| ➤ US 6,993,012 B2    | ➤ US 6,707,793 B1 |
| ➤ US 7,155,520 B2    |                   |

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL MURRAY whose telephone number is 571-270-1773. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 0800-1700 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571)-272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Daniel Murray/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2143

/Nathan J. Flynn/

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2154